

## NIAGARA FALLS.

### A MASTERPIECE OF NATURE.

#### Wonder of Wonders.

J. E. Keene in the *Athena*.

There is a sense in which I believe in America for Americans. It is the sense in which one loves his own home better than any other, however much it may differ in external arrangement. It is the sense in which a citizen of the United States thinks more of the stars and stripes than he does of the other nations combined. I am in sympathy with the sentiment expressed by Sir Walter Scott, when he said:

"Breaths there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned,

As home his footsteps he hath turned  
From wandering on a foreign strand?"

It affords me pleasure, therefore, to call your attention, briefly, to a masterpiece in nature so much our own as to make it dear to us, and so magnificent in itself as to command the admiration of the world.

Niagara Falls must forever stand as one of the greatest attractions known to man, it matters not with what it may be compared. For more than two centuries this place has been the Mecca of the pleasure-seeking world, and will continue to be while time lasts.

"What troops of tourists have encamp-

ed upon  
The river's brink;  
What poets have shed from countless  
quills  
Niagaras of ink."

I can but touch upon the early associations of this enchanting spot, though to know more of its history is to add greatly to its interest. These things, however, can add nothing to the beauty and grandeur of the Falls. They are its natural inheritance, unaffected by time and conditions.

The Falls of Niagara are situated in the Niagara river, between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. This river is the connecting link between these two lakes and is but sixteen miles in length. Through its channel passes the waters of four great lakes, which cover 95,000 square miles and collect a drainage from 300,000 square miles, or nearly one half of our continent, thus assuring a constant water supply beyond the possibility of a doubt.

In less than half a mile before reaching the Falls the river has a decline of fifty-five feet, and then plunges over a precipice of from 150 to 165 feet into the channel below. The ordinary flow of the river is about 300,000 cubic feet of water per second, giving to the Falls a force equal to ten millions horse-power per second, or a daily force equal to the latent power of all the coal mined in the world each day; hence, it is not surprising that this immense power is being utilized in many ways, in some instances being conveyed for hundreds of miles, at a less expense than the same power could be produced for in any other way. It is now thought entirely practicable to transmit this power for a radius of 500 miles, which would take in Chicago on the West and Boston on the East. The practical utility of this great water power is of comparatively recent conception, and is only now in its incipency, and it is not too great a stretch of faith to believe that in the very near future, all the factories and machinery requiring force throughout the entire region, within a radius of 500 miles from the Falls, will be harnessed to this mighty engine of nature.

The name Niagara is of Indian origin, and is said to mean "thunder of waters." If the definition be not true, it is apparent to any one who has visited the Falls that it is at least very appropriate. To the early Indian tribes the Falls of Niagara were the object of worship. To them were offered their best sacrifices. In the thunder of the waters they heard the voice of the Great Spirit; in the silvery spray which ever hung like a bridal veil over the foaming waters, they saw the habitation of Jehovah. It was to them His Holy of Holies.

Each year, in the early spring-time, they brought the fairest maiden of their tribe, and offered her as a sacrifice to this mighty God, sending her over the Falls in a snow-white canoe filled with fruits and flowers. So deeply had this superstitious idea taken hold upon them, that the honor of being selected for this annual offering was earnestly coveted by the maidens of the tribe, and the one selected pushed her canoe, with her own hands, into the jaws of this awful death, with as much joy as a bride of to-day would stand at the marriage altar. This strange infatuation seems not to have entirely passed away with the civilization of that age, for even now, each year, from ten to twenty persons seek a resting place in this watery grave.

I know of nothing at once so beautiful, so glorious, and so powerful as the Niagara Falls.

We look to France for art, to Scotland for grandeur, loveliness, and romance, while in this masterpiece of God's workmanship, we find that which is greater than art, grander than any production of man, and possessing a loveliness and a romance peculiar to itself.

Approaching the Falls from the American side, we enter the beautiful

park adjacent to the Falls. Its stately grove, well-kept lawns, decorated with flowers, dotted with fountains and settees and interlaced with driveways and promenades, all impress one that he is entering the most attractive and inspiring place on earth.

The rushing, foaming, thundering waters are God's orchestra, sounding forth a perpetual welcome. There is a feeling of awe which comes over one as he draws near the embankment. He looks, and no mortal tongue can fittingly describe what he sees. He may have read the best description ever written of this enchanting place; he may have allowed his imagination to paint the most beautiful picture of this masterpiece, but nothing read or conceived will compare with the beauty and grandeur here spread out before him. To add to these charms, God takes the beauties of the sky and earth and so combines them as to present the grandest effect. He borrows the tints from the sunlight, and constructs a crown of glory, and hangs it over the white foaming waters at the base of the Falls, so that, while the sun shines, there is a perpetual rainbow. These are some of the charms of Niagara in the summer time.

Niagara in winter is a scene in nature beyond description. If the Falls in summer are beautiful, so magnificent that tongue, pen, and brush fail to set forth their true loveliness, much less are they able to convey an adequate conception of the grandeur of this mighty cataract when clothed in the mantle woven by Winter's master artist. Then the overhanging cliffs are covered with transparent sheets of silvery white. Glittering wreaths of icicles, like jeweled diadems, gleam on the brow of every projecting rock and jutting crag.

On either side of the river, before reaching the Falls, there is an ice bound fortification through which the rushing waters leap and dance as though safe from every foe. Pieces of floating ice from the lakes above are thrown over the precipice and pile themselves up at the base of the Falls until a natural bridge is formed over which thousands of people pass from shore to shore, and under which the foaming waters rush down into the quiet retreat of the rocky caverns below.

The rising mist, which in the summer time is as the bridal veil to this fair picture, in winter is transformed into a silvery frozen spray, glittering in the sunlight like myriads of diamonds and standing out, here and there, in graceful forms like the half finished work of an artist.

The waters themselves, always a beautiful green, are infinitely more brilliant in winter, set in a landscape of sparkling silver, and the sun which paints his colors so beautifully, in the summer time, on the bow of promise spanning the Falls, in the winter shows himself in magnificent splendor, not only in the rainbow, but as he flashes from every glittering gem and shines through every icy prism. To fully appreciate the "Roaring Niagara" one must see it.

#### Talk From a Horse.

Selected.

Don't ask me to "back" with blinds on. I'm afraid to.

Don't lend me to some blockhead that has less sense than I have.

Don't be so careless of my harness as to find a great sore on me before you attend to it.

Don't run me down a steep hill, for if anything should give away I might break your neck.

Don't whip me when I get frightened along the road, or I'll expect it next time and maybe make trouble.

Don't think because I go free under the whip I don't get tired. You would move up if under the whip.

Don't hitch me to an iron post or railing when the mercury is below freezing. I need the skin on my tongue.

Don't keep my stable very dark, for when I go out into the light my eyes are injured, especially if snow be on the ground.

Don't leave me hitched in my stall at night with a big cob right where I must lie down. I am tired and can't select a smooth place.

#### Luck.

Exchange.

"There is no such thing as luck," said Colonel North once. "Everybody in this world has chances—yes, everybody from the working collier who strikes a seam of coal which was never thought of by the mining engineer to the colliery proprietor who gets information regarding that seam and resolves to work it. What people call luck simply means that a man sees his chance, holds on to it, and at the right moment works it for himself. Luck? Nonsense! Luck is simply the faculty of seizing passing opportunities."

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T. A. SLOCUM, M. D., 185 Pearl St., New York.

AP. The Editorial and Business Management of this Paper Guarantees this generous Proposition.

## PLATFORM ADOPTED BY THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CON- VENTION.

All Men of All Political Parties Invited to join in a Fight to the Finish for Free Silver and Good Government.

Whereas, the Democratic party had its birth in Mr. Jefferson's great contest against the centralization of the powers of the Federal government, and in behalf of the strict construction of the Federal Constitution embodied in the tenth amendment thereto, in which all powers not delegated to it were expressly reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people; and whereas, the Republican party has ever been the party of centralization, resolved,

1. That we appeal to the people to observe this fundamental difference between the Democratic party and its traditional enemy in respect to the powers of the central government.

2. That the Constitution of the United States recognizes both gold and silver as the primary or redemption money of these States, and that, in the words of the National Democratic platform of 1884, "We believe in honest money, the gold and silver coinage of the Constitution, and a circulating medium convertible into such money without loss."

3. We favor, independently of other nations, the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold, without discrimination against either, at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, and we condemn the system which in a time of peace, with millions of silver bullion lying idle in the Treasury, has forced the government within the short period of two years, to issue \$262,000,000 of bonds, entailing this enormous debt upon the people in order to maintain its credit upon a single standard and a gold basis.

4. We condemn the action of the Secretary of the Treasury in following the Republican precedent of paying the obligations of the Government in gold which were specifically made payable in coin.

5. We hereby instruct our delegates to the National convention, both as to platform and candidates, to advocate and vote as a unit, unflinchingly and at all hazards, for the restoration of silver, and otherwise in obedience to the letter and spirit of the principles herein enunciated.

We further instruct our delegates, State and district, to use all their efforts to abrogate the two-thirds rule, if necessary to secure the nomination of a candidate in complete, hearty, and in known accord with the principles herein enunciated by us.

6. We warn the people against the threatened combined evils of the gold standard and the McKinley Tariff. These twin monsters go hand in hand in their mission of destruction, drawing the very sustenance from the body of the people, and concentrating all wealth and power in the hands of a few.

7. We denounce the McKinley Tariff and all other forms of protective tariff legislation, and favor the constitutional tariff for revenue only.

8. We favor the repeal of the unconstitutional tax of ten per cent. on State banks of issue.

9. We declare ourselves in favor of a graduated income tax in order that wealth may bear its due proportion of the burden of supporting the government, and we favor an immediate amendment of the Constitution of the United States authorizing its levy and collection in express terms, leaving nothing for judicial construction.

10. We are unalterably opposed to legislation by which monopolies and trusts are created and fostered. We insist upon the faithful execution of the existing laws against the same, and upon such further legislation as may be necessary for their suppression.

#### STATE AFFAIRS.

11. We point with pride to the economic and stainless administration of the State government whenever Democracy has been in power.

12. We favor the enactment of such an election law as will secure the purity of the ballot, and for the maintenance and protection of the right of suffrage to all the citizens of the State.

13. We favor the continuance of the system of public education established by the Democratic party, and pledge ourselves to its increased efficiency as the condition of the people and public revenues may justify.

14. We favor the prompt, impartial and just administration of the criminal law of the State, and point with pride to the fact that a Democratic legislature first enacted a law against lynching, and that the faithful execution of the same has virtually suppressed that crime in the State.

We cordially invite all men, regardless of former political associations, to unite with us, in a fight to the finish for free silver, for low taxes, for higher prices, for agricultural products, for the economical administration of government, and for the freedom and individual sovereignty of the American citizen.

We declare our belief that the peace, prosperity and happiness of the people of North Carolina depend on the defeat of the Republican State ticket in the coming election.

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CONDENSED SCHEDULE.  
Dated April 20, 1896.

Daily ex. San.	Daily ex. Sun.	STATIONS.	No. 103 No. 49	No. 48 No. 102
South Bound	North Bound		P. M. A. M.	P. M. A. M.
2 10	8 40	Lv Norfolk Ar.	6 00	10 5
2 25	9 00	Parkers Point	5 35	9 30
2 50	9 29	Drivers	5 11	9 84
3 05	9 44	Suffolk	4 57	8 51
3 43	10 18	Gates	4 23	8 31
4 02	10 38	Tunis	4 05	8 15
4 30	11 00	Ahoskey	3 45	9 33
4 45	11 14	Aulander	3 31	7 58
5 25	11 57	Hobgood	2 54	7 19
5 50	12 20	Ar. Tarboro	2 35	6 55

Ar. Lv.  
5 57 1 25 Rocky Mount 2 05 6 30  
P. M. P. M. P. M. A. M.

No 23 carries pullman parlor car. Norfolk to Rocky Mount and connects with A. C. L. Train 23 for all points south.

No. 103 connects at Hobgood for all eastern Carolina points, also at Rocky Mount with A. C. L. train 27 for all points south.

No. 78 carries pullman parlor car Rocky Mount to Norfolk and connects for all points north.

For all information schedules call on

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CONDENSED SCHEDULE.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.	No. 23.	No. 35.	No. 41.
Dated April No. 23.	Daily.	Daily.	Daily.
20, '96.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.
Lv. Weldon	11 55	10 39	
Ar. Tarboro	1 00		
Lv. Tarboro	12 20		
Lv. Rocky Mt.	1 05	10 20	6 00
Lv. Weldon	2 03	11 03	
Lv. Selma	2 53		
Lv. Fayetteville	3 30	12 53	
Ar. Florence	7 20	3 00	

TRAINS GOING NORTH.	No. 78.	No. 32.
Daily.	Daily.	Daily.
Lv. Florence	8 15	7 25
Fayetteville	10 55	9 30
Lv. Selma	12 32	
Ar. Weldon	1 20	11 15

TRAINS GOING NORTH.	
No 78	No 32
Daily	Daily

No. 78.	No. 32.	No. 40.
Daily.	Daily.	Daily.
Lv. Weldon	12 52	11 20
Ar. Rocky Mt.	1 48	12 02
Ar. Tarboro	2 23	
Lv. Tarboro	12 20	
Lv. Rocky Mt.	1 53	12 02
Ar. Weldon	3 10	12 55

Train on Scotland Neck Branch road leaves Weldon 3:55 p. m., Halifax 4:13 p. m., arrives Scotland Neck at 5:05 p. m. Greenville 6:47 p. m., Kinston 7:45 p. m. Returning leaves Kinston 7:20 a. m., Greenville 8:22 a. m. Arriving Halifax at 11:00 a. m., Weldon 11:20 a. m., daily except Sunday.

Trains on Washington Branch leave Washington 8:00 a. m., arrives at Pamlico 8:50 a. m., returning leaves Pamlico 6:10 p. m., arrives Washington 7:35 p. m. Daily except Sunday. Connects with trains on Albemarle and Raleigh Railroad and Scotland Neck Branch.

Train leaves Tarboro, via Albemarle & Raleigh road daily except Sunday, 4:40 p. m., Sunday 3:00 p. m., arrive Wilmington, 7:18 p. m., 4:20 p. m., Plymouth 8:30 p. m., 5:20 p. m. Returning leaves Plymouth, daily except Sunday, 6:00 a. m., Williamston 7:30 a. m., 9:58 a. m. Arrive Tarboro 10:40 a. m., 11:20 a. m.

Trains on Southern Division, Wilson and Fayetteville Branch leave Fayetteville Branch leave Fayetteville 3:30 p. m., arrive Rowland 7:11 a. m. Returning leave Rowland 7:35 a. m., arrive at Fayetteville 9:19 a. m. Daily except Sunday.

Train on Midland, N. C., Branch leaves Goldsboro, daily except Sunday 6:00 a. m., arrive Smithfield 7:30 a. m. Returning leaves Smithfield 8:00 a. m., arrive Goldsboro 9:30 a. m.

Train on Nashville Branch leaves Rocky Mount at 6:20 p. m. arrives Nashville 7:15 p. m., Spring Hope 7:40 p. m. Returning leaves Spring Hope 8:00 a. m., Nashville 8:35 a. m. Rocky Mount 9:15 a. m., daily, except Sunday.

Train on Clinton branch leaves Warsaw for Clinton daily except Sunday at 6:20 p. m., and 11:15 a. m. Returning leaves Clinton at 8:20 a. m., and 3:10 p. m. connecting at Warsaw for Clinton, daily, except Sunday at 6:20 p. m., and 11:15 a. m. Returning leaves Clinton at 8:20 a. m., and 3:10 p. m., connect at Warsaw with Nos. 41, 40, 23 and 78.

Trains No. 57 South bound and 14 North will stop only at Rocky Mt., Wilson, Goldsboro and Magnolia.

Train No. 78 makes close connection at Weldon for all points North daily. All rail via Richmond and daily except Sunday via Bay Line, also except Sunday, with Norfolk and all points north via Norfolk. JOHN P. DINNIE, GENERAL Supt. TRANS. T. M. EMERSON, Gen'l Pas. Agt.

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